

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 10, 11 and 17 are amended. No new matter is added.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives by Examiners Mengistu and Zubajlo at the interview held July 31, 2007, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

Claims 1-3 and 5-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,518,962 (Kimura). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As agreed during the personal interview, Kimura at least fails to disclose "a detector that is connected in parallel with the drive transistor and detects voltage at the one end of the driven element, the detector being a detection transistor and a resistance of the detection transistor varying in accordance with the voltage detected by the detector," as recited in claims 1, 10, and 17. Accordingly, claims 1, 10, and 17 are patentable over Kimura. Further, claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-16, and 18 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 10 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

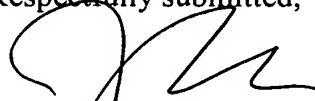
Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kimura. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

This rejection is premised upon the presumption that Kimura discloses all of the features of claim 1. Because, as discussed above, Kimura does not disclose all of the features of claim 1, the rejection is improper. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-18 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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